IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a communicating unit, arranged to communicate information with each of terminal devices on the network;

a domain information acquiring unit, arranged to acquire domain information of the network;

a first acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function, to acquire first information related to the terminal device connected to the network through said communicating unit;

a second acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired by said first acquiring unit;

a third acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function, to acquire a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired by said second acquiring unit; and

a display unit for ~~distinguishably~~ displaying information of the terminal device connected to the network[[,]] and information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device, ~~and the use status thereof based upon the first information acquired by~~

~~said first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit, and the use status acquired by said third acquiring unit~~

wherein said first acquiring unit acquires the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, and

wherein said display unit displays the information of the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon the first information acquired by said first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit, and the use status acquired by said third acquiring unit.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit poll the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit poll the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit receive and obtain both the information and the use status notified from the terminal device on the network, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the notified information and use status.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a selecting unit, arranged to select a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed by said display unit wherein,

a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting operation by the user via said selecting unit.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first acquiring unit acquires information of a terminal device within a predetermined network domain.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display unit displays a terminal device and a peripheral device, which are displayed, by way of display elements, and also displays a connection condition thereof by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said display unit displays thereon the connection condition of the peripheral device based upon a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

Claim 12 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein when said display unit displays the condition of the peripheral device, said display unit selects an icon corresponding to the condition of the peripheral device from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a peripheral device is busy, and also another icon for representing that a peripheral device is not under use.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling a peripheral device is not installed in the own device.

Claim 17 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a first saving unit, arranged to save a first information of the own device on the network;

a connector, arranged to locally connect, not through the network, a peripheral device thereto;

a second saving unit, arranged to save a second information of the peripheral device connected by said connector;

a detecting unit, arranged to detect a use status of the peripheral device connected by said connector; and

a transmitting unit, arranged to transmit the first information saved in said first saving unit, the second information saved in said second saving unit, and the use status detected by said detecting unit to another device in response to a request issued from the another device.

Claim 18 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a first saving unit, arranged to save a first information of the own device on the network;

a connector, arranged to locally connect, not through the network, a peripheral device thereto;

a second saving unit, arranged to save a second information of the peripheral device connected by said connector;

a detecting unit, arranged to detect a use status of the peripheral device connected by said connector; and

a transmitting unit, arranged to transmit the first information saved in said first saving unit, the second information saved in said second saving unit, and the use status detected by said detecting unit to another device on the network every predetermined period.

Claims 19-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for displaying information of a peripheral device locally connected to a terminal device connected to a network, said method comprising:

a domain information acquisition step, of acquiring domain information of the network;

a first acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring first information related to the terminal device connected to the network;

a second acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring second information related to the peripheral device that is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired;

a third acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring third information related to a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired; and

a display step, of ~~distinguishably~~ displaying a connection status display indicative of the first information of the terminal device connected to the network[[,]] and the second information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device, ~~and the use status thereof based upon the first information, the second information, and the third information~~

wherein in said first acquisition step, there is acquired the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, and

wherein in said display step, there is displayed the information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon

the first information acquired in said first acquisition step, the second information acquired in said second acquisition step, and the use status acquired in said third acquisition step.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein said first information, said second information, and said third information are acquired by polling the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and

the content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein said first information, said second information, and said third information are acquired by polling the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and

the display content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, further comprising:

a reception step, of receiving and obtaining the first information, the second information, and the third information notified from the terminal device on the network; and

an update step, of updating the display content of the connection status display based upon the notified information and use status.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, further comprising:

a selection step, of selecting a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed on the connection state display wherein,

a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting operation of the peripheral device by the user via said selection step.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein the first information is acquired from a terminal device within a predetermined network domain.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 36, wherein to display the connection status display, the terminal device and the peripheral device, which are displayed, are expressed by way of display elements, and also the connection status is displayed by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 45, wherein the connection status of the peripheral device is displayed based upon a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 45, wherein when the connection status of the peripheral device is displayed in said display step, an icon corresponding to the connection status of the peripheral device is selected from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon, and displayed on the display screen.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 47, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection status of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 47, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection status of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 47, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that the peripheral device is busy, and also another icon for representing that the peripheral device is not busy.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 47, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling the peripheral device is not installed in the own device.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method for transmitting information of a peripheral device locally connected, not through a network, to an information processing apparatus connected with the network, said method comprising:

a first save step, of saving first information relating to the own device on the network;

a second save step, of saving second information relating to the peripheral device locally connected, not through the network, thereto;

a detection step, of detecting a use status of the peripheral device connected thereto; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the first information, the second information, and the use status of the peripheral device to another device based upon a request issued from another device on the network.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A method for transmitting information of a peripheral device locally connected, not through a network, to an information processing apparatus connected with the network, said method comprising:

a first save step, of saving first information relating to the own device on the network;

a second save step, of saving second information relating to the peripheral device locally connected, not through the network, thereto;

a detection step, of detecting a use status of the peripheral device connected thereto; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the first information, the second information, and the use status of the peripheral device to another device on the network in a periodic manner.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A method for displaying information of a peripheral device locally connected, not through a network, to a terminal device connected with the network, said method comprising:

a domain information acquisition step, of acquiring domain information of the network;

a first acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring first information relating to a first information processing apparatus connected to the network;

a second acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring second information relating to the peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired;

a third acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring third information related to a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired;

a display step, of ~~distinguishably~~ displaying a connection status display indicative of information of the terminal device connected to the network[[,]] and information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device~~, and the use status thereof based upon the first information, the second information, and the third information in the first information processing apparatus~~;

a first save step, of saving information of the own device on the network;

a second save step, of saving information relating to the peripheral device locally connected, not through the network, thereto;

a detection step, of detecting the use status relating to the peripheral device connected thereto; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information related to the own device, the information related to the peripheral device, and the use status of the peripheral device to a second information processing apparatus,

wherein in said first acquisition step, there is acquired the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, and

wherein in said display step, there is displayed the information of the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon the first information acquired in said first acquisition step, the second information acquired in said second acquisition step, and the use status acquired by said third acquiring unit.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by polling the information processing apparatuses on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and

the content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by polling the information processing apparatuses on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and

the display content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 57 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by receiving both the information and the use status notified from the first and second information processing apparatuses on the network, and

the display content of the connection status display is updated based on the notified information and use status.

Claim 58 (currently amended): A display method according to claim 54, further comprising:

a selection step, of selecting a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed on the connection status display,

wherein a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting [[opertion]] operation of the peripheral device by the user via said selection step.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device.

Claim 61 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein both the first information processing apparatus and the second information processing apparatus belong to a predetermined network domain, and

the first information processing apparatus acquires the first information from an information processing apparatus within the predetermined network domain.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein to display the connection status display, the information processing apparatuses and the peripheral device, which are displayed, are represented by way of display elements, and also the connection status is displayed by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof.

Claim 64 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein the connection status of the peripheral device is displayed based upon a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

Claim 65 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 54, wherein when the connection status of the peripheral device is displayed in said display step, an icon corresponding to the connection status of the peripheral device is selected from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon, and is displayed on a display screen.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 65, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection status of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

Claim 67 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 65, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection status of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

Claim 68 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 65, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that the peripheral device is busy, and also another icon for representing that the peripheral device is not busy.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 65, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling the peripheral device is not installed in the own device.

Claim 70 (previously presented): A display method according to claim 65, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device; and

the icon group contains such an icon that indicates that a plurality of print jobs are pending.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A storage medium for storing thereinto a computer program executed by a computer employed in an information processing apparatus connected to a network, wherein said computer program comprises:

code for a domain information acquisition step, of acquiring domain information of the network;

code for a first acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring first information related to a terminal device connected to the network;

code for a second acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired;

code for a third acquisition step, of performing an acquisition function of acquiring third information related to a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired; and

code for a display step, of ~~distinguishably~~ displaying a connection status display indicative of information of the terminal device connected to the network[[,]] and information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device, ~~and the use status thereof based upon the first information, the second information, and the third information~~

wherein in said first acquisition step, there is acquired the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, and

wherein in said display step, there is displayed information of the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired in said domain information acquisition step, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon the first information acquired in said first acquisition step, the second information acquired in said second acquisition step, and the use status acquired in said third acquisition unit.

Claim 72 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by polling the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and

the content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling acquired information and use status.

Claim 73 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by polling the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and

the display content of the connection status display is updated by the display content based upon the polling-acquired information and use status.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the first information, the second information, and the third information are acquired by

receiving both the information and the use status notified from the terminal device on the network, and

a display content of the connection status display is updated based upon the notified information and the notified use status.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, said computer program further comprising:

code for a selection step, of selecting a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed on the connection status display,

wherein a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting operation of the peripheral device by the user via said selection code.

Claim 76 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device.

Claim 79 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein the first information processing apparatus acquires information of a terminal device within a predetermined network domain.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 71, wherein as to the connection status display, the terminal device and the peripheral device, which are displayed, are represented by way of display elements, and also a connection condition thereof is displayed by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 80, wherein the connection condition of the peripheral device is displayed by way of a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

Claim 82 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 80, wherein as to the connection status display, when the connection condition of the peripheral device is displayed, an icon corresponding to the connection condition of the peripheral device is selected from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon.

Claim 83 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 82, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection condition of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

Claim 84 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 82, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the connection condition of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

Claim 85 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 82, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that the peripheral device is busy, and also another icon for representing that the peripheral device is not busy.

Claim 86 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 82, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling the peripheral device is not installed in the own device.

Claim 87 (previously presented): A storage medium for storing thereinto a computer program executed by a computer employed in an information processing apparatus connected to a network, wherein said computer program comprises:

code for a first saving step, of saving first information relating to the own device on the network;

code for a second saving step, of saving second information relating to the peripheral device locally connected, not through the network, thereto;

code for a detection step, of detecting a use status of the peripheral device connected thereto; and

code for a transmission step, of transmitting the first information, the second information, and the detected use status to another device based upon a request issued from the another device on the network.

Claim 88 (previously presented): A storage medium for storing thereinto a computer program executed by a computer employed in an information processing apparatus connected to a network, wherein said computer program comprises:

code for a first saving step, of saving first information relating to the own device on the network;

code for a second saving step, of saving second information relating to the peripheral device locally connected, not through the network, thereto;

code for a detection step, of detecting a use status of the peripheral device connected thereto; and

code for a transmission step, of transmitting the first information, the second information, and the detected use status to another device on the network every predetermined period.